

House File 2049 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2049

BY SALMON

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to voter identification for absent voters.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 53.17, Code 2022, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 2A. The voter shall include in the sealed
4 return envelope a photocopy of a document sufficient to satisfy
5 the voter identification requirements of section 49.78.

6 Sec. 2. Section 53.23, subsection 5, Code 2022, is amended
7 to read as follows:

8 5. The special precinct election board shall preserve
9 the secrecy of all absentee and provisional ballots. After
10 the affidavits on the envelopes have been reviewed and the
11 qualifications of the persons casting the ballots have
12 been determined, including through the verification of the
13 included voter identification document as provided in section
14 49.78, those that have been accepted for counting shall be
15 opened. The ballots shall be removed from the affidavit
16 envelopes or return envelopes marked with the affidavit, as
17 applicable, without being unfolded or examined, and then shall
18 be thoroughly intermingled, after which they shall be unfolded
19 and tabulated. If secrecy folders or envelopes are used with
20 provisional paper ballots, the ballots shall be removed from
21 the secrecy folders after the ballots have been intermingled.

22 EXPLANATION

23 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
24 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

25 This bill relates to voter identification requirements for
26 absent voters. The bill requires an absent voter who returns
27 a completed absentee ballot to the commissioner's office, by
28 mail, or to a ballot drop box to include with the completed
29 ballot a photocopy of a voter identification document that
30 would satisfy the voter identification requirements for a voter
31 voting in person on election day. The bill also requires the
32 members of the absentee ballot and special voters precinct
33 board to verify the validity of the identification in the same
34 manner as a precinct election official verifying the identity
35 of a voter voting in person prior to counting a ballot.